

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THE

OTHER™

EVOLVE
OR DIE

PART 9 OF 12



THE



OTHER

EVOLVE
OR DIE

PART 9 OF 12

PREVIOUSLY IN

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN #21



Spider-Man is dead...or is he?

After a vicious battle with the enigmatic Morlun, the web-slinger was beaten, bloody, and missing an eye. But when Morlun attempted to deliver his final deathblow and literally "feed" on Spider-Man, Spidey reanimated in a burst of fury and unleashed the full force of his totemic powers. The predator suddenly became the prey, and Morlun perished—his life-force consumed, his body dissipating into dust.

The final effort ended Spider-Man's life as well...or so it seemed.

Something has now emerged from Peter Parker's cadaver, leaving behind a broken window in Avengers Tower and a hollow shell of a corpse. Now, whomever—or whatever—escaped has formed a cocoon in preparation for its next stage...

"EVOLUTION"

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ANY
SIGN OF
HIM?

NEGATIVE. GOING
UP 48TH STREET FOR
ANOTHER PASS.

COPY
THAT.



HE SAID
HE'S COMING
AROUND FOR
ANOTHER
SWEEP.

STEVE, A
GUY CAN'T GO
LEAPING OUT OF A
TWENTY-STORY
WINDOW WITHOUT
SOMEBODY
SEEING HIM.

WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT IT WAS,
LUKE. WHATEVER WAS
IN THAT ROOM WITH
PETER'S BODY...

IT COULD
HAVE BEEN...IT
COULD BE...
ANYTHING.



WHAT
IF...WHAT IF
IT WAS PETER?
WHAT IF--

MARY JANE,
PETER'S...
PETER'S
DEAD, MJ. YOU
HAVE TO ACCEPT
THAT.

DO I?

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
MANY TIMES HE'S
BEEN PRESUMED
DEAD? UNDER-
ESTIMATED?

BURIED ...?

HIS BODY
IS IN THE OTHER
ROOM, MJ.
IS
IT...?



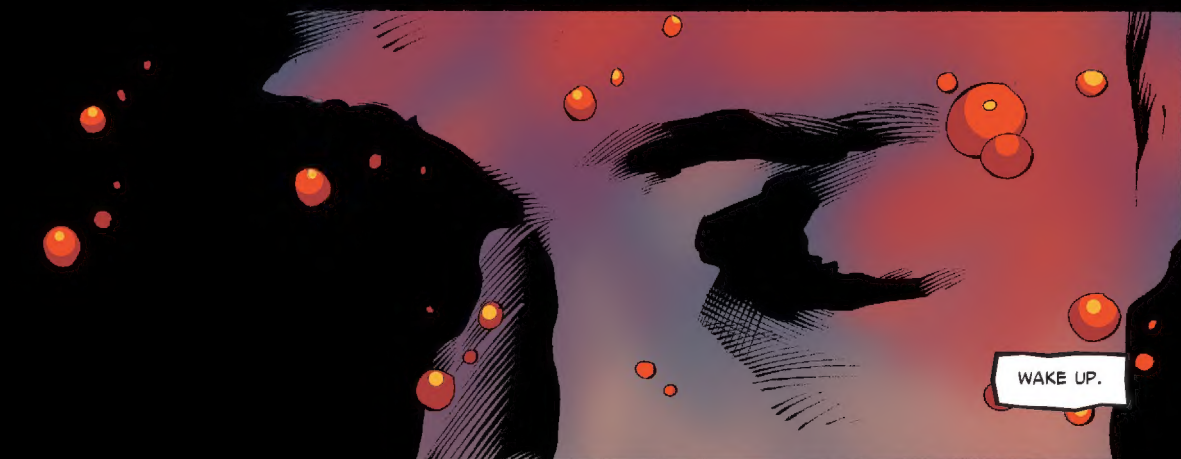
"WHATEVER
HAPPENED
TO PETER..."

"...WHATEVER
IS OR IS NOT IN
THAT ROOM..."



"...IT'S JUST A SHELL.
WHAT I LOVED IN PETER
WAS WHAT WAS INSIDE.

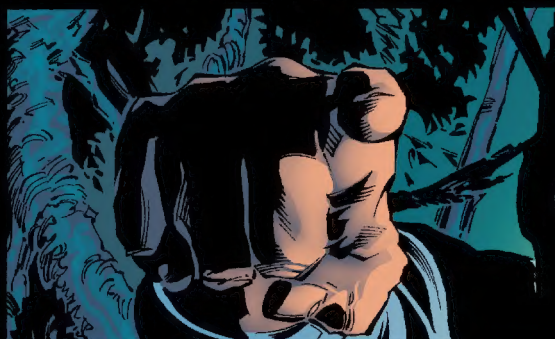
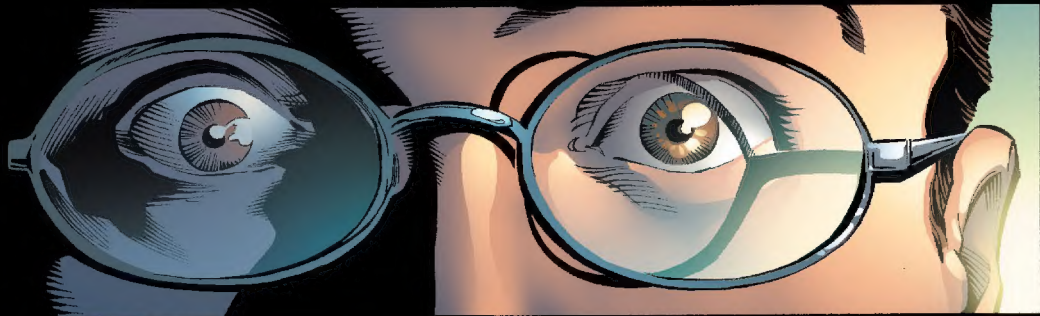
"AND NOTHING
CAN KILL THAT.



"WAKE UP."











LITTLE
SPIDER...

...LITTLE
MAN...

...DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND.



NEVER
UNDERSTOOD.

WHAT
YOU
WERE.

WHAT
YOU
ARE.

WHAT YOU ARE
BECOMING.



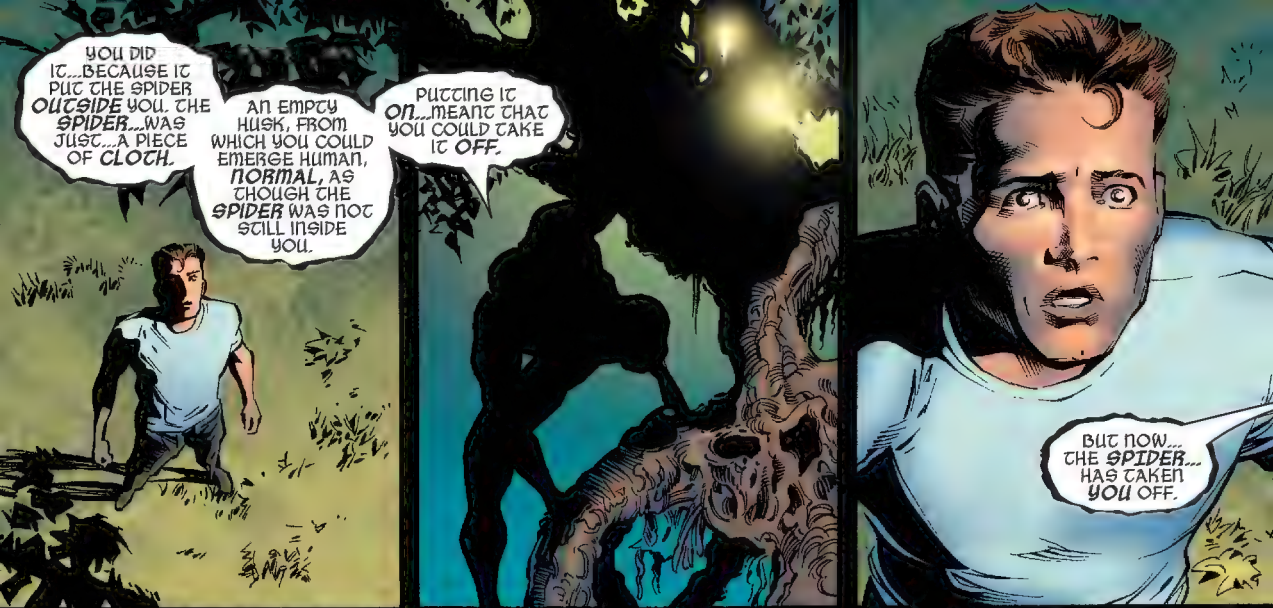
YOU WERE
BITTEN. THE
VENOM WAS
INSIDE YOU.

THE
SPIDER...
WAS INSIDE
YOU.

BUT YOU
COULDN'T FACE
THAT... COULDN'T
ACCEPT THAT...

AND WHAT
DO WE DO WITH
THOSE PARTS OF
US WE CANNOT
FACE, CANNOT
ACCEPT?







YOU **TREATED** THE **GIFT** THAT YOU HAD BEEN GIVEN AS THOUGH IT WERE A **TOY**.

YOU DID NOT **LOOK TOO DEEPLY** INTO WHAT YOU HAD **BECOME** OR WHAT YOU COULD **DO**.

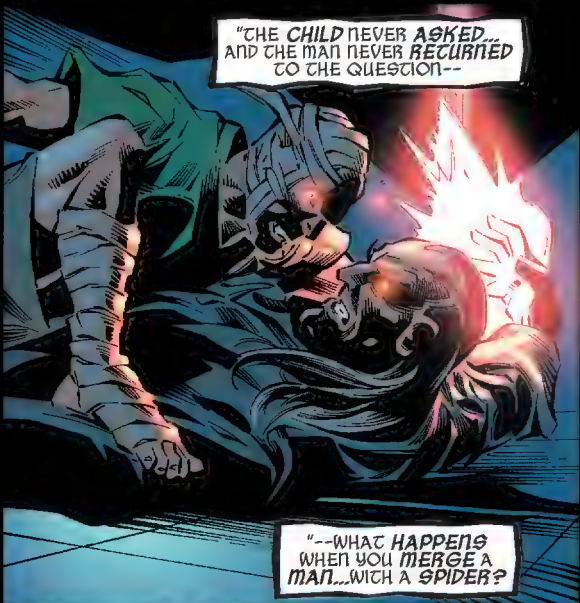
YOU COMMITTED THE **CRIME...OF** **SUPERFICIALITY**.



STRENGTH. SENSES. AGILITY. ADHESION. THE **WEB**.

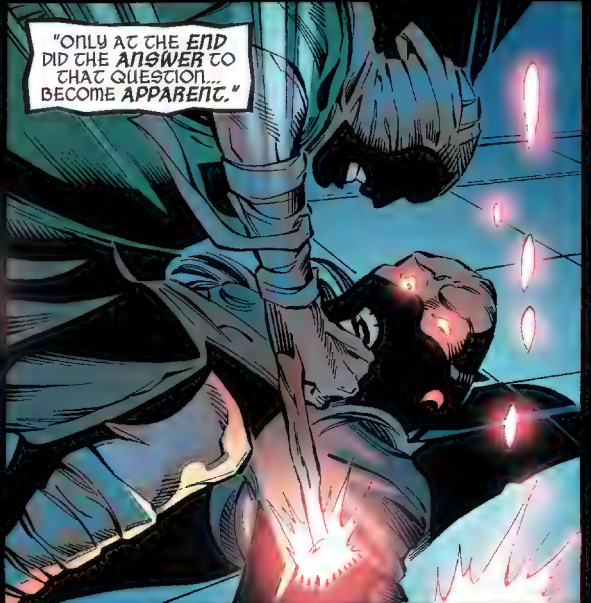
THESE WERE THE **SIMPLEST TOOLS** WHICH YOU HAD BEEN GIVEN. THE ONES A **CHILD** WOULD FIND **EXCITING...**

...AND **STOP** BEFORE ANYTHING **MORE EXCITING** BUT ALSO **MORE** **DISTURBING** WAS DISCOVERED.



"THE **CHILD** NEVER **ASKED**... AND THE **MAN** NEVER **RETURNED** TO THE **QUESTION**--

"--WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU **MERGE** A **MAN**...WITH A **SPIDER**?



"ONLY AT THE **END** DID THE **ANSWER** TO THAT **QUESTION**... BECOME **APPARENT**."



YOU... WERE **DEAD**.

THE **SPIDER** WAS **NOT**. THE **SPIDER**... **REFUSED** TO **DIE**.



"AND SO THE **SPIDER**...**FED**."

"IT **TOOK** FROM THE **ONE**...WHAT IT **TRIED** TO **TAKE** FROM THE **SPIDER**."



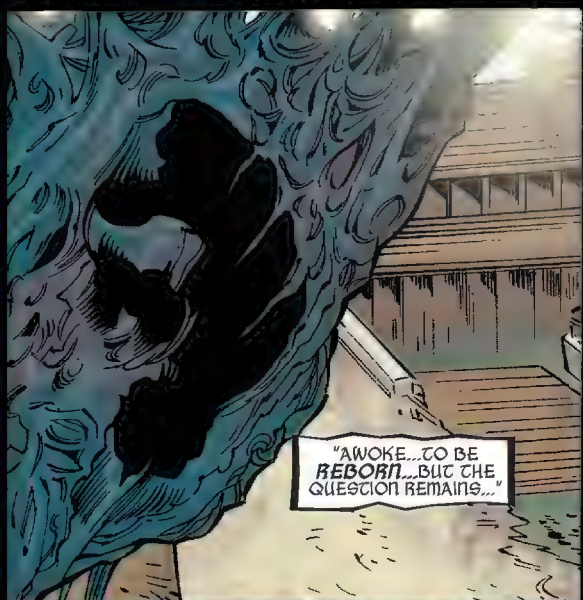
"AND THE SPIDER
SLEPT...AND DREAMT...
OF BEING A MAN..."



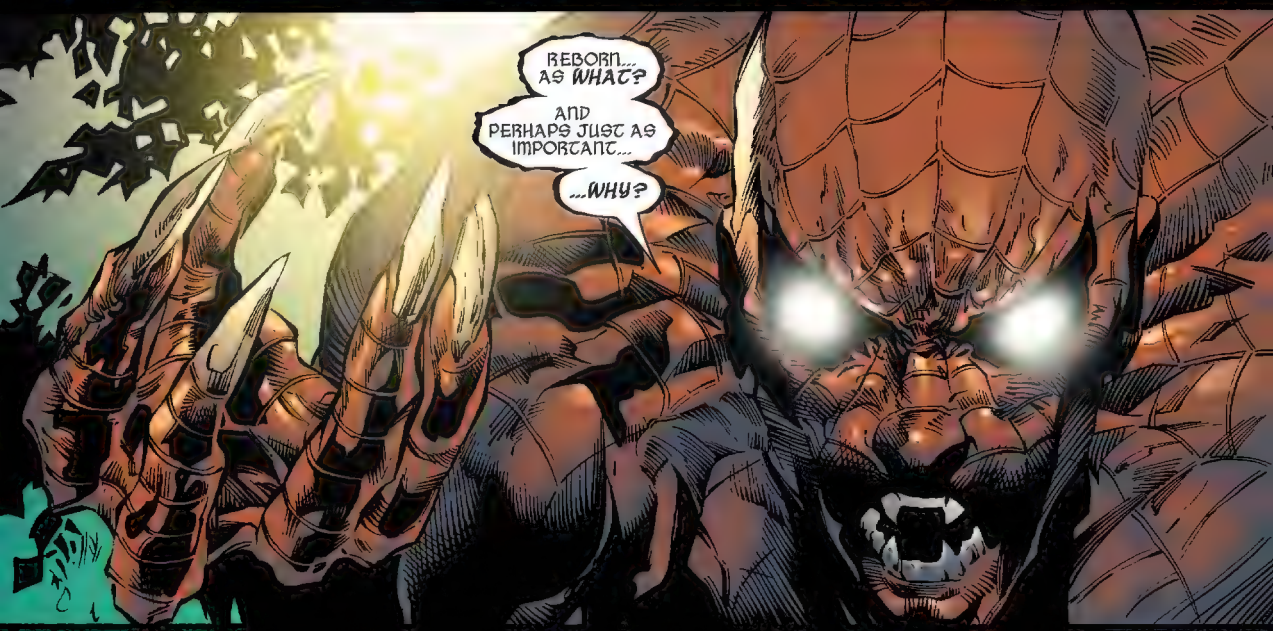
...AS THE
MAN SLEPT...AND
DREAMT...OF BEING
A SPIDER...



"UNTIL AT LAST...THE
SPIDER...AWOKE."



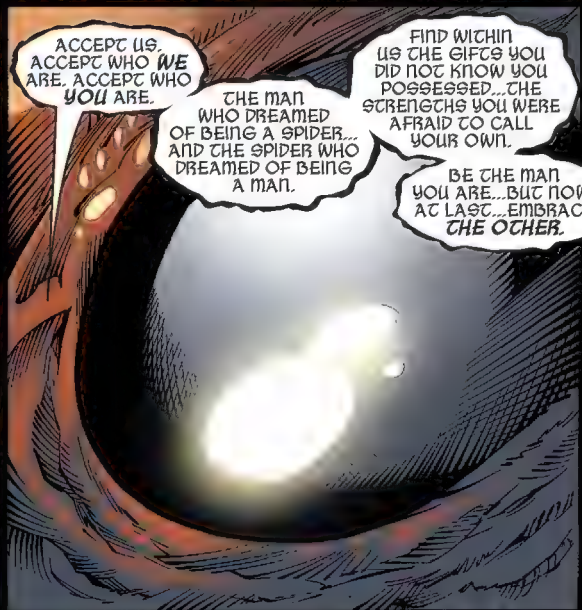
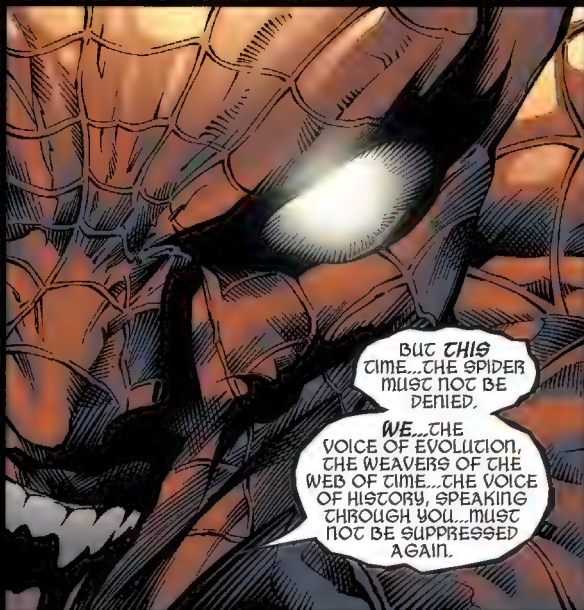
"AWOKE...TO BE
REBORN...BUT THE
QUESTION REMAINS..."



REBORN...
AS WHAT?

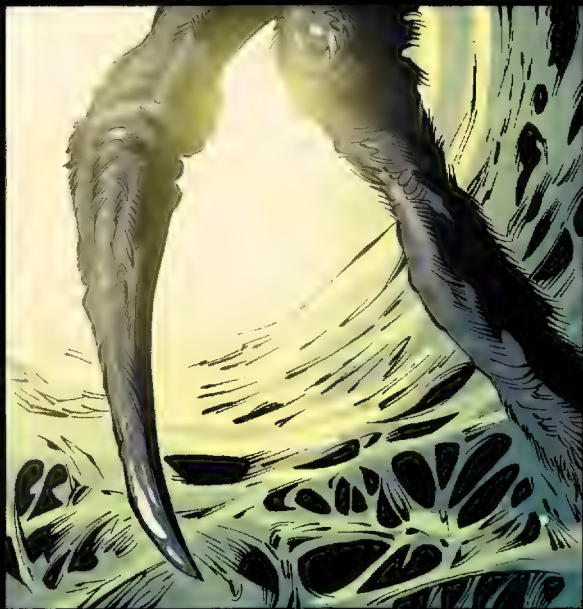
AND
PERHAPS JUST AS
IMPORTANT...

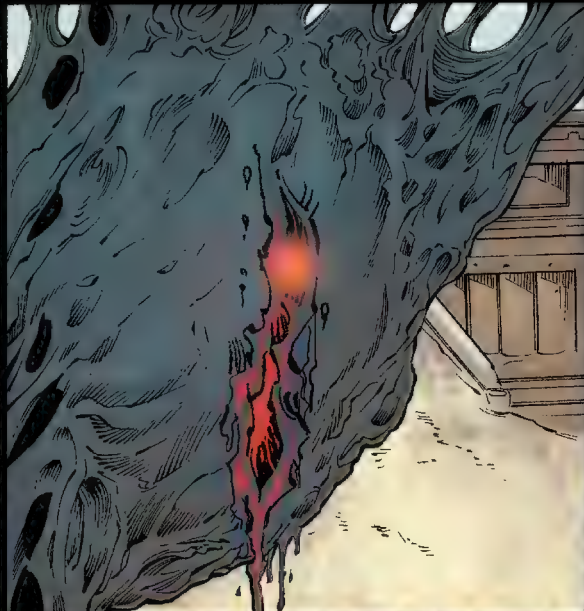
...WHY?





EMBRACE
US.









ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY FOR THIS, AUNT MAY? I CAN TELL THEM TO--

NO, MARY JANE...IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH.

FIVE DAYS...

THERE'S NO POINT TO LOOKING ANYMORE.



I DON'T WANT TO LET PETER GO, MARY JANE. I FEEL AS IF...IF I LET GO, I'LL JUST FALL... FOREVER.

BUT THEN I REMEMBER... THAT I HAVE YOU TO LOOK AFTER NOW. TO TAKE CARE OF.

JUST AS I LOOKED AFTER PETER...AFTER BEN WAS GONE...AND I THOUGHT MY WORLD WOULD END.



PETER GAVE ME A REASON TO LIVE. AND HE STILL DOES... BECAUSE YOU ARE IN MY LIFE, AND I AM IN YOURS.

I HOLD ONTO THAT EVERY DAY, MARY JANE. AND SO SHOULD YOU.

WE'RE... WE'RE READY. READY TO LET GO OF--

--THE BODY.

DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO WITH IT.



MARY JANE... MAY...I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN HARD FOR YOU, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL OF US...ALL OF US...WILL BE THERE IF YOU NEED US. AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY FOR AS LONG AS--



DING!

--AS--

WHO...?

LOGAN? LOGAN, IS THAT--



...YOU?

OHGOD... OHGOD... OHGOD...



PETER...!

MJ...
MAY...

I'LL
NEVER LEAVE
YOU AGAIN.

NEVER.

NEVER.

NEVER.

"THERE ARE SOME
THINGS YOU HOPE FOR,
BUT YOU NEVER DARE
SPEAK OUT LOUD..."



...WHEN TONY AND I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, AND REALIZED THAT THE WINDOW HAD BEEN BROKEN FROM THE INSIDE-OUT, WE THOUGHT MAYBE--

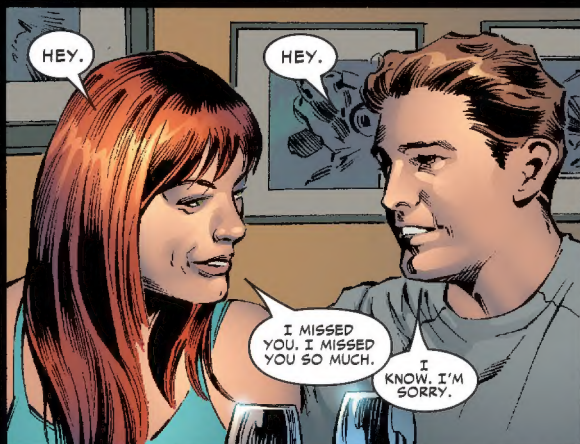
--MAYBE THERE WAS SOME KIND OF REGENERATION PROCESS UNDERWAY, SINCE YOUR POWERS COME FROM A SPIDER, AND SPIDERS SHED THEIR SKIN ONCE IN A LIFETIME.



BUT WE DIDN'T...COULDN'T... SAY ANYTHING, IN CASE WE WERE WRONG, BECAUSE IF WE WERE...I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S A WORD FOR SOMETHING THAT CRUEL.

I KNOW, I KNOW...

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, STEVEN.

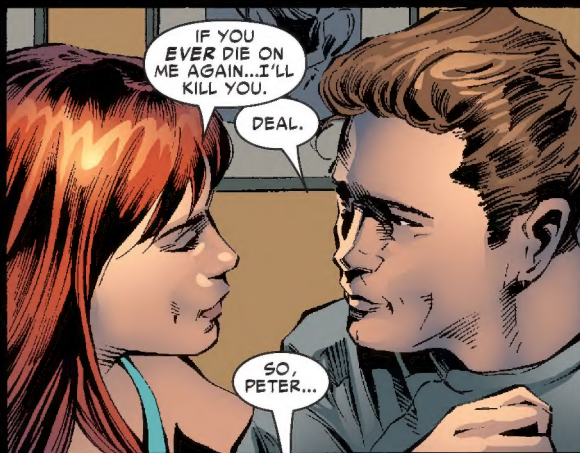


HEY.

HEY.

I MISSED YOU. I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

I KNOW, I'M SORRY.



IF YOU EVER DIE ON ME AGAIN...I'LL KILL YOU.

DEAL.

SO, PETER...



...WHEN WE THOUGHT YOU WERE...GONE...WE DISPOSED OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE EITHER MAY OR MJ.

THAT'S HIS FANCY WAY OF SAYING WE DITCHED ALL YOUR SPIDER-GUY OUTFITS.

ALMOST ALL OF THEM.

WE WERE SAVING ONE FOR... WELL, FOR THE MEMORIAL.

YOU CAN HAVE THAT ONE BACK NOW.





"BUT AS YOU
GO, GIVEN THIS
LAST CHANCE,
REMEMBER ONE
THING..."



"THE MAN DIED.
THE SPIDER
WAS REBORN."

"I... WAS
REBORN."



"SO THE
QUESTION
IS... ARE
YOU *YOU*?"

"OR ARE
YOU *ME*?"

"ARE YOU THE MAN
WHO DREAMED OF
BEING A SPIDER?"

"OR THE SPIDER
WHO DREAMED OF
BEING A MAN?"



"ARE YOU
THE *ONE*..."



"...OR ARE
YOU THE
OTHER?"

